

IN THE CLAIMS:

1- 7 (Canceled)

8. (New) A ring part, comprising:

a first partial ring with a first partial ring inner side and a first partial ring outer side and a first end with a first partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the inner side and a second end with a first partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure;

a second partial ring with a second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring outer side and a second partial ring first end with a second partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring second end with a second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the second partial ring outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure and said first partial ring being substantially identical to said second partial ring.

9. (New) A ring part according to claim 1, wherein each said joining structure has a shape of a hook for engaging behind another said joining structure.

10. (New) A ring part according to claim 9, wherein each said joining structure has a

shape that is substantially point symmetrical in construction.

11. A ring part according to claim 8, wherein each said joining structure has a back-engaging surface of a shape that is inclined with respect to the radial direction of the ring part.

12. A ring part according to claim 11, wherein said shape that is inclined extends from an inner side concave edge, in the vicinity of a hook shaped portion and is joined to the outer side convex edge on the respective partial ring.

13. A ring part according to claim 8, wherein each said joining structure of one partial ring is frictionally retained in another said joining structure of another said partial ring.

14. (New) A ring part construction, comprising:

a first partial ring with a first partial ring inner side and a first partial ring outer side and a first end with a first partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure at the inner side and a second end with a first partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure;

a second partial ring with a second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring outer side and a second partial ring first end with a second partial ring non-flexible inner side joining

structure at the second partial ring inner side and a second partial ring second end with a second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure at the second partial ring outer side, said first partial ring inner side joining structure being substantially the same in shape as said second partial ring outer side joining structure and said first partial ring being substantially identical to said second partial ring;

a multi-piece functional part, said first and second partial rings being engaged together with said first partial ring non-flexible inner side joining structure frictionally engaged with said second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure and said first partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure frictionally engaged with said second partial ring non-flexible outer side joining structure, to radially hold together said functional part.

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